



Foreword

Welcome to Prague to the 31st European Cystic Fibrosis Conference

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

We feel highly honoured by the opportunity to welcome you all in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the 31st European Cystic Fibrosis Conference. We understand the decision of the ECFS Board to choose Prague as a host for this prestigious event as an acknowledgement of the long tradition of CF care in Czechoslovakia and, later, in the Czech Republic. The ECFC has always been a very special meeting of scientists, clinicians, all other healthcare professionals and lay people involved in the care of patients with cystic fibrosis. The high attendance of all the previous conferences confirms the importance of such meetings and proves the continuing interest of all of us in obtaining new and current information that helps to improve the care for our patients and provides better control over the disease.

The higher attendance of the 31st conference in Prague certainly confirms that the decision of the Board was right and that the combination of such an interesting meeting with a very special host city has been appreciated by many.

The scientific programme of the 31st conference combines, in a unique way, new information from the basic science with clinical experience. Special attention will be given to new developments in therapy.

The task of the Scientific Programme Committee was not easy. To select the best among so many excellent contributions, to invite the best among so many excellent speakers, to cover all the new developments was definitely hard work. We sincerely hope that you will appreciate the selection and that you will enjoy the dense scientific programme. We believe that this conference, which we may proudly organize in Prague, will not only review the achievements but will significantly contribute to the improvement of knowledge and quality of care for our patients.

We also hope that you will keep some extra time to enjoy the unique atmosphere of the host city. Prague is a special place in the heart of Europe, a place with a very long and rich history and the seat of Charles University, one of the oldest universities in Europe. The combination of all the beautiful historical sites with a modern and lively atmosphere makes this place so attractive for thousands of tourists every year. We wish you an excellent time in Prague and hope that this visit to the Czech Republic will prompt you to come soon again.

On behalf of the ECFS, the Scientific Committee and the Czech CF Team we wish you a very pleasant and fruitful stay in Prague.

Petr Pohunek
President of the 31st ECFC

Milan Macek
Vice-President of the 31st ECFC